

Remarks

This reply is responsive to the Office communication mailed September 15, 2005.

New claims 24-27, dependent on claims 1, 15, 19 and 23, respectively, recite that the first and second sets of elements are from a common character set and that the first set of elements has a first case while the second set of elements has a second case different from the first case. These claims are thus directed to the case conversion aspect of applicant's invention.

Claims 1-23, constituting all the previously presented claims, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Edberg et al. U.S. Patent 5,793,381 ("Edberg") (page 3). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Edberg describes a so-called Unicode converter for converting between various character encodings with what is termed "round trip fidelity", so that a conversion from encoding A to encoding B and then back again will regenerate the original character sequence. The Examiner points to a mapping table 414 (Fig. 5) with various segments 502, 504, 506, each of which is devoted to text elements of a given character length. In addition to normal lookup in the mapping tables, there is fallback handling performed by a fallback handler 418 (Fig. 4), which comes into play if a conversion code is not found in the mapping table and the caller has requested fallback handling (Fig. 7, steps 710-716; col. 15, lines 16-43).

Note that in Edberg, exception handling is triggered by failure to find an entry in the mapping table corresponding to a text element (col. 15, lines 16-17). It is not triggered by finding a corresponding entry, but having that entry contain an exception handling element, as in applicant's claimed system. Thus, whereas applicant has a second element for each first element, Edberg only has an entry in the mapping table for text elements that are handled normally. This is a substantial difference, as it relates, for example, to the ability to use hardware instructions, such as the Translate Two to Two (TRTT) instruction mentioned in the specification (page 5, lines 21-26), in aid of the procedure. In any event, Edberg clearly lacks this element of

applicant's claimed invention and therefore does not teach, much less anticipate, anticipate any of the rejected claims.

New claims 24-27, being dependent on claims 1, 15, 19 and 23, are believed to distinguish over Edberg for the reasons stated above. These claims are additionally believed to distinguish over Edberg on account of their being directed to case conversion within a common character set rather than conversion between character sets as described in that reference.

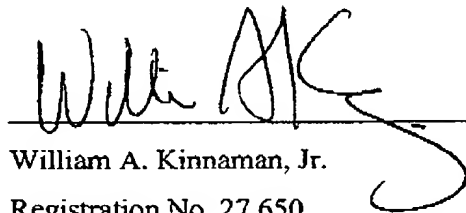
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, new claims 24-27 as well as previously presented claims 1-23 are believed to distinguish patentably over the art cited by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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